

February 8, 2013

**ATTORNEY GENERAL ISSUES CEASE & DESIST ORDER AGAINST NORTHSTAR  
ADVERTISING SOLUTIONS, LLC D/B/A NETWORK MEDIA SOLUTIONS, AND  
WILLIAM RELIGO**

BISMARCK, ND— Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem today issued a Cease and Desist Order against Northstar Advertising Solutions, LLC doing business as Network Media Solutions, and William Religo individually of Phoenix, Arizona for failure to respond to a Civil Investigative Demand and alleged violations of North Dakota's consumer fraud and do-not-call laws.

Northstar Advertising Solutions sells online "business opportunities" such as website design and online advertising. A consumer filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division alleging she paid almost \$9,000 based upon misrepresentations or false promises. The consumer alleges that the business promised she would receive income of \$6,000 per quarter and customer support and service. The consumer alleges she has not received any income from the business's products and that it has not provided any customer support or service, or answers to her questions. The Attorney General alleges the business made calls to a telephone subscriber on the do-not-call list in violation of the do-not-call law.

Stenehjem is concerned about the allegations of fraudulent solicitations by Northstar Advertising Solutions and directed his Consumer Protection Division to issue a Civil Investigative Demand to obtain answers to his questions about the business practices. "I am concerned about allegations indicating this business may be engaged in what is commonly referred to as a 'biz-op' scam and that it failed to respond to the Civil Investigative Demand and cooperate with the investigation," Stenehjem said.

According to Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, consumers should be wary of internet business opportunities. "Northstar Advertising Solutions' business practices appear to follow those involved in typical business opportunity scams," Grossman said. "This consumer lost \$9,000, and this unfortunate incident should serve as a warning to consumers that become involved in internet business scams."

North Dakota consumers who have not already filed complaints against Northstar Advertising Solutions with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division can submit a complaint form from the Attorney General's website at [www.ag.nd.gov](http://www.ag.nd.gov), or by contacting the Consumer Protection Division at 701-328-3404.

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